United Nations S/2005/348

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 May 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 27 May 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 30 April 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 30 April 2005.

2. As at 30 April 2005, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,608, including 2,847 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There is no change to the status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo remains relatively calm, with underlying tension that will continue in the foreseeable future. While the situation may remain generally calm, there are some issues that could negatively impact this tense peace, including the recurring occurrence of power and water outages. The warmer weather has traditionally coincided with a rise in tensions and in the number of incidents in Kosovo. Violent acts aimed at destabilizing the fragile situation cannot be ruled out.

5. On 17 April 2005, the headquarters of the opposition political party ORA in Pristina was bombed. Despite this event, the prevailing climate seems to be one of restraint encouraged by the majority of the political leadership. The primary motivation for this restraint appears to be the desire not to negatively impact Kosovo's efforts to achieve standards in advance of status talks.

6. The inter-ethnic situation in Kosovo is relatively calm but tense. During the reporting period, four inter-ethnic incidents — two against Kosovo Serbs and two against Kosovo Albanians — took place in areas where the population is mixed.

7. The number of cases involving possible surveillance and threats to Kosovo Force (KFOR) facilities and forces has not changed significantly since the last report.

8. In terms of organized crime, the number of incidents has continued to rise since the beginning of the year: from 13, 41 and 82 incidents reported for January, February and March 2005, respectively, the number of incidents reported during April 2005 reached 176 and concerned drug, weapons and other smuggling activities.

9. As during the previous reporting period, KFOR continues operations to prevent ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites and remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force also continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter any resurgence in violence.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

10. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during April 2005.

The Kosovo Protection Corps

11. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 3,011 active members, including 151 from the ethnic minorities. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,809 members, 17 of whom are from the ethnic minorities. At 5 per cent, the percentage of minorities remains at half the goal of the senior representative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

12. During April 2005, the Multinational Brigades carried out 89 roll calls. The percentage of personnel being absent without permission remained steady during the reporting period at 1.32 per cent.

13. The KPC performed maintenance on their weapons located at Camp Slim Lines on 6 April 2005. The weapons authorization card renewal process is complete and the new cards will be distributed no later than 10 May 2005.

14. Concerning training and KPC activities, KFOR headquarters is developing the emergency readiness test concept, which contains three phases: preparation, execution and evaluation. The aim is to prepare the KPC before a test of its abilities as a professional organization capable of rapidly reacting to an emergency. Each Multinational Brigade is providing specialized training to KPC Training and Doctrine Command trainers. For instance, Multinational Brigade C has developed a solid plan to train pick-up zone trainers in communications. KPC Training and Doctrine Command currently has a well-organized library containing the necessary regulations and field manuals. These references will be used during the training in an effort to standardize future training. Moreover, several field training exercises have taken place, including on 22 April, in which 180 member reservists in pick-up zone 3 completed a five-day training exercise.

Conclusion

15. The general situation in Kosovo remains relatively calm with underlying tension that will continue in the foreseeable future. While the situation may remain generally calm, there are some issues that could negatively impact this tense peace, including the recurring occurrence of power and water outages.